

Appln No. 10/727162
Amdt. Dated: November 17, 2006
Response to Office Action of August 22, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of August 22, 2006 issued with respect to the present application the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the following Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the compensation provided by the ordering and timing of the dot data supply by the printer controller to the printhead modules ensures that respective nozzles of respective ones of the rows are controlled to print a dot at the same location on print media. Support for this amendment can be found at page 493, line 29-page 493, line 30 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 1-18 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-discussed amended independent claim 1 is not disclosed by newly cited Haflinger (US 2002/0180816), for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the nozzle skew compensated for by the printer controller of the claimed invention is in relation to the printing at a single location on print media of multiple nozzles from multiple nozzle rows, as described at page 493, line 29-page 493, line 30 of the present specification.

On the other hand, the overlapping arrangement of two printheads 1, 2 of Haflinger is provided to increase the swath height of the scanning printer, such that the printheads 1, 2 are driven so that in the overlapping region of the printheads, only certain nozzles from each printhead are operated to produce single drops at single locations, illustrated as either an "X" or an "O" in the drawings of Haflinger. Accordingly, the misalignments of the printheads disclosed by Haflinger are with respect to the print line, rather than misalignments of individual dots from multiple nozzles, as in amended independent claim 1 (see [0031]-[0035]).

Furthermore, even in the embodiments of Haflinger where dithering is used in the overlapping region to compensate for the misalignments, single dots are still printed by single ones of the nozzles from either printhead (see [0038]-[0043] and Figs. 7-10). Therefore, there is no suggestion from the disclosure of Haflinger to use nozzles from the adjacent printheads to print dots in the same location, and therefore the need to ensure that relative skew is compensated for in the printing of such multiple dots at the same location.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-18 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed, nor suggested, by Haflinger.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

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It is respectfully submitted that none of the other previously cited references, Askren, Dings, Hackleman, Kamoshida, Walmsley, Silverbrook, Usui, King and Morita, provide any disclosure which makes up for the above-discussed deficiencies in Haflinger.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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